



The Paw Print

News From Saint Leo the Great School

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September-November 2015

Turkey Feast

By Michael DiCarlo and Lauren Walsh

On Thursday, November 12, 2015 the students celebrated the feast day of Saint Leo the Great. The day started with the celebration of mass at 9 A.M with Father John presiding. Following the mass was the celebration of the annual Turkey Feast. Mrs. Newberry and her staff produced hundreds of hot, festive meals. All students enjoyed turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, green beans, and rolls. This was followed by cookies for dessert. The cafeteria was beautifully decorated and many moms volunteered their time to help make the day memorable. A scheduled eighth grade football game was cancelled due to rain. The Turkey Feast proved to be a wonderful celebration of Saint Leo the Great Day.





Locked Out

By Francis Ruzich

When you walk down the second floor, you see lockers. For the first few weeks of school, sixth grade students are challenged with new locks, combinations, small space, and lots of kids. Girls decorate their lockers, while boys tend to keep it simple. The lockers are bigger than cubbies. You can put things in lockers including mirrors, shelves, pictures, wallpaper, and white boards to record homework assignments. Lockers are a good way to keep your books safe, organized, and easy to locate. After two weeks, kids are starting to get better at it, and they are actually on time to class.



An Hour of Code for Eighth Graders!

By Kiley Cizin and Madeleine Hicks

An Hour of Code is the new mandatory eighth grade elective which introduces computer coding. Mrs. Brock works hard to teach the students the importance of computer programming. This will be an important job in the future. The eighth graders use Code.org to learn coding through a series of fun games. The students will eventually learn to write and understand code. I feel that all the students are looking forward to learning more about computer programming.



Did You Know... On October 15, 2015 the Student Council went to Trenton for a special Mass celebrated by Bishop O'Connell in Saint Mary's Cathedral?



Looking Ahead

By Peyton Corvisiero

This year will be an exciting year for the students! The 4th Grade is doing fun projects like Power Points, reading a variety of books, and a historical presentation about the Titanic.

In addition, the third grade is also involved in projects this year such as the rainforest project, the Charlotte's Web novel, and a raffle they do to raise money for a third world country so they can purchase sheep for poor villages. At the end of the year the third grade students present a rainforest project. For this project they study a whole unit on the rainforest in class. They present a Power Point, do individual posters, and at the end they do a play. In the play, they dress up, decorate the classroom, and make a huge tree out of paper and cardboard.

The third grade also will read a novel called Charlotte's Web. When they read this novel at the end of this year, they do projects and many activities with this book. After they finish, they watch the movie.

Third Grade Projects

By: Lauren Walsh and Adriana Masters

The third graders were working on a very cool project, Land Mark Mobiles! They had to choose some landmarks in their towns such as Holmdel Park, Thompson Park, a British Campsite, and the Middletown Library. The busy third graders needed to decorate a hanger, draw or print out the landmarks they have chosen and write one fact about that landmark on the back of it. This cool project was due on October 5, 2015. Hopefully you had a chance to check out their work.



Did You Know... That Saint Leo the Great School is forming a fencing team? The team is open to students in grades 4 through 8 and is run by Mr. Mac Shaker from the American Institute of Fencing. If you have an interest in joining the team, please contact the Athletic Association.

Welcome Pope Francis

By Hunter Lane

This September, the Pope visited the United States. There was hype throughout the United States during his visit. He visited Washington D.C., New York City, and Philadelphia. When he was in Washington D.C., he met with the President and Congress. He also canonized Father Junipeuro Serra as a Saint on Sept 23, 2015. Pope Francis then went to New York City to go to various events. He celebrated a mass at Madison Square Garden. He also addressed the U.N. Pope Francis then left to go to Philadelphia to celebrate a Mass and then attended The World Meeting of Families. His visit made history. This is a week that our generation will never forget.



Structural Changes in School

By: Kiley Cizin and Madeleine Hicks

Over the summer many structural changes have happened throughout the school. One of the biggest changes of them all was the religious education office switching places with the schools nurses' office. As you may know the nurses' office is now in the cafeteria and the religious education office can now be easily accessed without entering the school. Next to the nurses' office, in the cafeteria, is the new guidance counselor's office and new meeting rooms. You may have also noticed an extra set of doors in front of the school replacing the old porch. Leading up to those doors is a stone walkway stretching from the church to the school. Lastly, the courtyard has been transformed into a beautiful new garden and science area. These changes are helping to make our school a safer and better learning environment. They also add to the beauty of the Saint Leo the Great's campus.

Did You Know... That once a week Mrs. Tabakman comes to meet with the 5th graders to present a program which will provide life skills for success? Mrs. T. also presents B.A.B.E.S. program to the fourth grade.



Giving a Helping Hand

By Hunter Lane

On any given day, you could meet many of the students of Saint Leo the Great School offering a helping hand to the community. If you visit Lunch Break on a Saturday at least twice a month, you will find Will Koontz and John Gray making lunches for the less fortunate people. On any Wednesday afternoon, you would see Nick Latona and Mark Paleski helping the first grade students grow in their faith in the CCD class. Matthew Buckalew volunteers his time to clean Jensen Beach in Florida as part of a beatification process. He also uses his birthday and end of the school year party to collect food for the needy and hungry. Owen McCann gives his time at least once a month at Delicious Orchards. He and his brother Matt box and package surplus food to donate to local charities. Every Sunday, Hunter Lane volunteers his time at Tower Hill Presbyterian Church in Red Bank, NJ. He shares his computer skills as he presents the hymns and weekly sermon to the congregation via projection. Hats off to the people who dedicate their time and talent.

Pumpkin Saints!

By Hunter Lane and John Gray

In the beginning of October, a project was born. The second grade students were given a project to make pumpkin saints. This project was made to teach students about saints before All Saints Day. The students were required to research their saint, whom they chose. They had to write biographical information about their saint in a report. They were also required to decorate a pumpkin to represent their saint. Their project was displayed for about a week in the cafeteria. This project was great in teaching the second grade students about the saints and their faith. Be sure to visit the display seen below.



Did You Know... That a recent random survey taken among students in 4th through 6th grade revealed that the most popular app is Minecraft, followed by Clash of Clans, Crossy Road, Angry Birds, and Candy Crush?



Veterans Day

By Gavin Murray

Veterans Day is a day to honor our veterans who served the U.S. over the years. We celebrate Veterans Day on November 11 because on November 11, 1919 World War I officially ended. When Veterans Day was declared a holiday in 1938, it was called Armistice Day. In 1954, President Eisenhower changed the name to Veterans Day. Britain, France, Canada, and Australia also remember Veterans on or near November 11th. 1.8 million Veterans are women. 1.9 million Veterans are under the age of 35. 9.2 million Veterans are over the age of 65. In the end, we should always honor our Veterans and appreciate what they have done for us.

School Song

By Kate Cohen and Caroline Durkin

On Thursday, October 1, 2015 the students of Saint Leo the Great School sang the new school song called the Alma Mater. Mrs. Pomanowski, our middle school religion teacher, wrote and produced the new school song for us to sing in the morning. For the recording, we practiced a lot and we learned the song. The students were all nervous because it was going to be on the loud speaker during prayers in the morning. Mr. Bob Miller had recorded the sixth grade students. The actual recording was supposed to be on Monday, September 28, at 4:45 but it was cancelled. The official date for the recording was October 1, 2015 during the school day. Mr. Begley videotaped the recording process in Mrs. Pomanowski's room where the recording was taking place to take pictures and a video of all of us singing the Alma Mater. We really appreciate Mrs. Pomanowski for allowing the 6th grade to record our school song!





Biting Into The Cafeteria

BY: Gavin Murray

As a student who buys lunch every day I am always interested to see what the menu includes. This is usually designed by the lunch staff. The lunch menu normally includes items such as chicken, tacos, and salads. If you are thirsty you can have Snapple, Gatorade, or milk. On September 28, 2015 I interviewed Mrs. Newberry. One of the questions I had was concerning how the menus are created. She told me that she gets information in many ways like; Google, looking at past menus, and watching food shows. I proceeded to ask Mrs. Newberry if she taste tested the foods. She simply replied, "Yes." I also asked Mrs. Newberry if she changes the recipes to some foods and she said that she and her staff use a standardized recipe. I then asked Mrs. Newberry what foods sell the most. She told me that pizza and breakfast foods are the most popular. In the end, after I interviewed Mrs. Newberry, I learned about some of the tasks that the lunch staff has to deal with on a daily basis.

Halloween Parade

By Francis Ruzich and Daniella Del Tufo

On October 30, 2015 everyone dressed in their Halloween costumes. At high noon the students went outside responding to a fire drill. The parents were waiting for us. The parents started taking pictures of the students as we came out. The Halloween music started and then the parade started. The parade gave us a chance to see everyone's costumes. There were people who wore costumes like vampires, movie characters, football players, pigeons, and witches. Donald Trump even showed up, and made a political appearance in the school parking lot. Teachers also dressed in costumes. Mrs. Gordon was a bumble bee, Mrs. Devine was Judge Judy, and Mrs. Baker was a penguin. Even Mr. Begley himself represented the pirates of the past. At 12:30 the parade sadly had to end. All of the scary costumes had to go back to class, even Donald Trump.

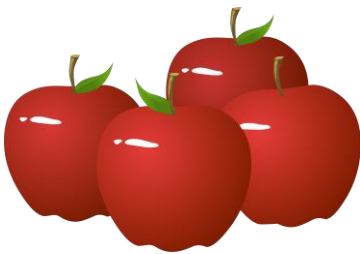




Austin the Unstoppable!

By: Erin Gretskey and Caroline Durkin

On November 5, 2015 grades three through eight had the opportunity to learn about eating healthy. We learned that if you don't eat healthy you could possibly get sick. This also taught us that you could get better if you change your diet and exercise. It was called Austin the Unstoppable. The actors were from the George Street Playhouse. They put eating healthy into a musical comedy so kids would understand that eating healthy is important. Instead of playing video games you should go outside and that you should only play one hour of video games a week. At the end of the play, the actors were nice enough to answer any questions that the students had. During the play, the actors started to drink Mountain Dew and at the end they told us that it actually has 46grams of sugar in it which is very unhealthy.



Crop Walk

By: Payton Corvisiero

Have you ever wondered why we dress down every year for the Crop Walk? What does the Crop Walk have to do with Saint Leo's? The Crop Walk was the idea of a Christian clergyman that was formed to feed the hungry in poor countries. Because of this, Saint Leo's sponsors a dress down day every year for the students and asks for a one dollar donation. However, for this cause, this dress down day and one dollar donation was encouraged by the school, but it was initiated by a student named Michael Rue and his family. Michael Rue is a eighth grade student who is very interested in helping people. His family asked the school if they could raise money for the Crop Walk with a dress down day. Moreover, the Crop Walk is a community service to help people to raise money and Saint Leo's is a big part of this event. Lastly, it is great that the school does this every year and people who are in need very much appreciate it.

Saint Leo's Welcomes the Rutgers' DNA Bus

By: Madeleine Hicks

Once again St. Leo the Great welcomes the Rutgers' DNA bus. The bus is for eighth graders to learn a little more about, and even extract some DNA themselves. Mrs. Tommolino- the middle school science teacher- has been thoroughly informing the eighth graders about DNA and on the bus they get to show what they learned. On the bus, the students work in partners to extract some DNA. They also get to keep it as a little souvenir from their experience. The bus has been coming for many years and the school is happy to have it back again.



Thankful Donations

By Gavin Murray

In the month of November many students participated in donating food to many different families. On November 20th all the food was collected and sent away. Each homeroom was tasked with a family to feed. The teacher of each homeroom assigned each student a certain item to donate. Approximately 258 bags were filled with thankful donations by students. Numerous turkeys were donated, which will feed many families. Students had to bring in food such as hot chocolate mix, rice, turkey, gravy, and canned green beans. In the end, families were fed and they were thankful.



Did You Know... That Saint Leo the Great School and other schools in the Diocese of Trenton received high marks from evaluators representing AdvancEd for our academic programs?

Ryan Halligan's Story

By Vishal Dube

On November 18, 2015 Mr. John Halligan visited Saint Leo's and shared the tragic story of his son Ryan Halligan. He told the story twice, the first to parents and the second to faculty and students of grades six through eight. He showed a brief slideshow of Ryan to open up the session.



He then shared a powerful and tragic story. He told of how Ryan was bullied and tormented until he could no longer take it. He ended his life on October 7, 2003. Mr. Halligan told us of all the lessons to learn from his heartbreaking story. After returning to class, we did an activity and discussed what we had learned. Everyone present was deeply moved. We ought to learn from Ryan's story which Mr. Halligan has shared so many times.

Human Strength

By Vishal Dube

Although we may not take the time to appreciate it, we are using a powerful machine. The human body has many incredible traits, such as healing naturally and living on past 100 years! Although the body has needs, it is still very powerful and forgiving to us.

For about an average of 80 years, the human body keeps working. It has multiple strategies to defend against viruses, diseases, etc. Not only do we possess a great body, but ours is superior to other animals. We have created societies, made subjects, and developed and understood complex things.

Despite our strength, all living things need maintenance. Food, water, and shelter are necessary, though the body can adapt to expecting less. For example, the homeless, who have less available resources at their disposal, are able to adapt to expecting less of their needs. So perhaps, we could simply try to appreciate and help out our body. We can do this by exercising, eating healthy, and avoiding bad things such as alcohol.



Clubs, Clubs, and More Clubs

By: Eric Beyar

The students of Saint Leo the Great have an opportunity to participate in many activities. I had an interview with Mrs. Tommolino to learn more about the clubs. She said the clubs for sixth grade are chess, improvise, science, STAR, and newspaper. She also said that “clubs allow students to experience different activities that engage critical thinking skills and personal talents.” The seventh grade clubs are National Geographic, Readers’ Theater, STAR, Science Olympiad, and Newspaper. Also, eighth grade clubs are Hour of Code, Mock Trial, Science Olympiad, and Newspaper. The new clubs this year are improvise, and Hour of Code. The sixth grade club moderators are Mrs. Doherty, Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Tyrrell, Mrs. McManus, and Mrs. Shute. The seventh grade moderators are Mrs. Devine, Mrs. Cotgreave, Mrs. Tyrrell, Mrs. McManus, Mrs. Tommolino, and Mrs. Shute. Finally, the eighth grade club moderators are Mrs. Brock, Mrs. Tommolino, Mrs. Tyrrell, Mrs. McManus, and Mrs. Shute. If you are in fifth grade or in a lower grade you have many clubs to look forward to when you are older.

Horseback Achievements

By: Chloe Van Berkel and Erin Gretskey

Grace Kreft is a 3rd grade student at Saint Leo the Great School. She is a horseback rider. Some of you may not know that she is ranked 18th rider in the world. She is a part of the New Jersey Quarter Horse Association. Outside of school she spends her time horseback riding and winning titles along the way. Her horse’s name is Dakota Zippos Deluxe or “Paddy” for short. She has been riding since she was 2 years old and it truly shows. Grace was 7 years old in her first show in this class and earned Reserve Champion for a show in Delaware. She is still competing today. So, everyone wish her good luck in her next competition.



Did You Know...The fourth graders made a thingy-ja-bob for class, swapped with each other, and wrote about it. They could make anything they wanted and it didn’t need to be invented. They could make it with 4 to 7 objects.



Garden

By Gavin Murray

On Monday, September 21, 2015 the sixth grade newspaper staff had the opportunity to visit the newly designed courtyard. The peace and quiet really brought you to a calm place in your mind. The courtyard's beauty was an amazing sight. All the flowers had many vivid colors. There was a beautiful fountain. Upon entering the garden, you observed a stone walkway that led you out a designated growing section to a stone sitting area. This quiet patch seemed perfect for clearing your mind, reading a good book, saying a prayer or having a family picnic. Overall, the garden was fascinating and extremely calming.

The Bible Rap

By Caroline Durkin and Chloe Van Berkel

On October 28, 2015 students from the sixth grade participated in the Bible Rap which is a rap that Mrs. Pomanowski had taught the class. They then memorized it so they could be prepared for the actual competition. Some people presented in groups and some people were soloists. Mrs. Shute and Mrs. Baker were the rap judges. The two teachers selected three groups and two soloists who they thought were the best. These winners would advance to the Rap Off which is the final competition. The winners were Chloe Van Berkel, Alaina Terrone, and Anna Piancone who were in one group. The second group included Grace Normoyle and Kennedy Mayo. The third group consisted of Isabella Neves, Cara Gioacchini, and Courtney Brennan. The final two soloist were Seton Smith and Jason Gentile. On November 4, 2015 the final competition was held. The winners were: Chloe Van Berkel, Alaina Terrone, and Anna Piancone. The winning soloist was Jason Gentile. In the end, everybody who made it to the finals received a dress down day. Congratulations to everyone who had participated in the Bible Rap and congratulations to the winners and the finalists who did a great job.



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